

Application Serial No. 10/645,573
Reply to Office Action dated July 25, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to discuss this case with the Applicant's representative during the telephone interview conducted on October 9, 2006. In addition, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter. More specifically, in the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 16 and 17 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, the Applicant notes that claims 18 and 19 have been withdrawn from consideration based on an election made in a reply filed on May 12, 2006.

During the interview, the Examiner agreed that amending claims 1 and 9 to require that the shield member is mounted to or carried by the door would patentably define the invention over the prior art of record. That is, none of the references relied upon by the Examiner teach a shield member mounted to or carried by a door of a dishwasher which extends at least across a portion of a detergent compartment lid to assure that the lid is not obstructed by kitchenware. Therefore, in order to further the prosecution and clarify the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the shield member is carried by the door and claim 9 has been amended to recite that the shield member is mounted to the door. Finally, the Applicant has placed claim 4 in independent form so as to include all the limitations of original claim 1.

Based on the above remarks, the indication of allowable subject matter, the agreements reached with the Examiner and the amendments to the claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined over the prior art of record such that allowance of all the claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any additional questions or concerns

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regarding this matter, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below in order to further expedite the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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